

# FamilyWise

FamilyWise has been funded by the European Social Fund to support families with multiple problems across the North East. The project is led by The Wise Group, a social enterprise with 30 years of employment based project experience in both the North east of England and across Scotland.

The aim of the project is to address local residents' barriers to employment and hopefully help members of the families into sustainable employment. FamilyWise is a voluntary provision that is able to recruit eligible local residents until 31 December 2014 and continue to work with each person until 31 March 2014.

There are a range of barriers that the project seeks to address. These barriers include:

- employability skills
- money/debt management
- housing
- personal and social development
- health
- basic skills
- IT skills
- Enhancing family relationships and skills
- Support for carers
- Work experience, including volunteering

There are specific eligibility rules that are confirmed for each local resident at registration stage. Where the Local Authority is the partner there is a self-referral process. For referrals from other sources such as Job Centre Plus, voluntary sector or National Offender Management Service the DWP confirm eligibility. Eligibility is primarily based around not being in employment and not on a mandatory Job Centre Plus activity such as Work Programme. There is also the opportunity to work with other members of the family as long as one person in the family is eligible.

The project is delivered by the following partners:

<b>Partner</b>	<b>Local Authority area covered</b>
Durham County Council	Durham
Five Lamps	Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland & Stockton
Gateshead Council	Gateshead
Hartlepool Council	Hartlepool (in partnership with Shaw Trust)
Northumberland County Council	Northumberland
Morrison Enterprise Trust	Darlington

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Shaw Trust	Hartlepool (in partnership with Hartlepool Council)
Sunderland North Community Business Centre	Sunderland
Wise Group	Newcastle, North Tyneside and South Tyneside

As lead partner, The Wise Group works with each partner to support the achievement of the contract in terms of delivering targets, compliance with ESF/DWP requirements, reporting and maintaining effective administration procedures. The project is managed from The Wise Group's Newcastle office. There is also support from the head office in Glasgow, including claims processes, IT support and the issuing of partner payments.

The Wise Group acknowledges the challenges partners will experience when working directly with customers and, in discussion with each partner, will provide support to maximise contract performance. There are monthly meetings involving all partners where topics such as overall targets, reporting and administration are discussed and actions agreed. Each part also meets individually with The Wise approximately every 6 weeks to review performance and any specifics.

Underpinning the expectations on each individual partner and the lead partner is the contract which specifies all requirements.

To support the transfer of activities between The Wise Group and North Tyneside there will be additional support provided to assist the transition. This will include providing details of previous activities and share good practice that has been developed across the FamilyWise project to ensure the Council has the maximum opportunity to deliver services.